



California State
Board of Equalization

MICHELLE STEEL



Keeping Up the Fight for Freedom

July 4, 2013

Dear Friends:

When the Founding Fathers of our nation proclaimed our independence in 1776, they knew the fight for freedom would not be an easy one. In defense of the proposition that we are all created equal, and endowed by our Creator with the unalienable rights of Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness, the Founders pledged their own lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor. And they went on to fight for freedom.

Our Founders were visionaries who knew that men were not born to live under tyranny, but were everywhere yearning for the opportunity to earn their own success and order their own lives in freedom.



Writing to his wife on July 2, after Congress had voted to approve the resolution for independence, John Adams said of that day:

"I am apt to believe that it will be celebrated by succeeding generations as the great anniversary festival. It ought to be commemorated as the day of deliverance, by solemn acts of devotion to God Almighty. It ought to be solemnized with pomp and parade, with shows, games, sports, guns, bells, bonfires, and illuminations, from one end of this continent to the other, from this time forward forever more."

Adams added that he was well aware of the "toil and blood and treasure that it will cost to maintain this declaration."

On July 4th, from one end of this continent to the other, Americans will pick up Adams's call and celebrate our independence in much the way he envisioned. As we do so, we must remember the cost of achieving the freedom and independence we celebrate. We cannot take it for granted.

We are free and independent today because generations of Americans from the Founders forward have fought to protect our liberty. New generations of Americans continue to fight for the same cause in our Armed Forces. They risk their lives to preserve our freedom.

This Independence Day, as we commemorate our "day of deliverance," let us remember those who serve every day in defense of our liberty, and remember also that it is up to each of us to keep up the fight for freedom.

I wish you a happy Fourth of July.

As always, it is an honor to serve as your elected taxpayer advocate.

Sincerely,



MICHELLE STEEL

Vice Chair, Third District

California State Board of Equalization

[Read the Declaration of Independence](#)

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